

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 USIE-00 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7651

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2124

STATE FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

TREASURY FOR NACHMANOFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFDF, EAID, IV, US

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

REPLENISHMENT MEETING, GENEVA, MARCH 6-7, 1978

1. THIS MORNING, AT THE REQUEST OF AFDF PRESIDENT FORDWOR, AFDF VICE PRESIDENT GONDWE CALLED IN OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FUND TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE CONSIDERS THE PRESENTATION OF A U.S. POSITION IN GENEVA AS BEING CRUCIAL TO ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE REPLENISHMENT NEGOTIATIONS. FORDWOR, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN LONDON AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, IS APPARENTLY ECHOING THEIR SENTIMENTS AND, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THE SENTIMENTS OF MOST OF THE MAJOR FUND DONORS.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO SECURING APPROVAL OF A U.S. POSITION ON THE REPLENISHMENT EXERCISE. I AM CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVINCED THAT IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT CLEARANCES BE PROMPTLY SECURED SO THAT A CLEAR AND FORTHCOMING STATEMENT CAN BE MADE IN GENEVA ANNOUNCING A U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECOND REPLENISHMENT ON THE ORDER OF 150 MILLION DOLLARS.

3. MY OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH AFDF PRESIDENT FORDWOR

CONFIRM WHAT GONDWE SAID THIS MORNING TO U.S. ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HENNESEY. FORDWOR BELIEVES THAT THE AFDF'S FUTURE HINGES ON THE OUTCOME OF GENEVA MEETING AND THAT VIRTUALLY ALL POTENTIAL DONORS ARE LOOKING TO THE U.S. TO TAKE THE LEAD. THIS IS NOT RPT NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE CATALYTIC ROLE THE U.S. PLAYS WORLDWIDE IN THE IFI'S AND THE REPEATED STATEMENTS WE HAVE MADE ABOUT U.S. COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND TO AFRICA IN PARTICULAR.

4. OUR RECORD TO DATE IN THE AFDF HAS FALLEN FAR BELOW THESE STATEMENTS OF INTENTION. INDEED, FOR A VARIETY OF LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER REASONS, THE U.S. POSITION IN MEETINGS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND HAS OFTEN BEEN ONE OF FOOT-DRAGGING, CAVEATS, AND ABSTENTIONS RATHER THAN LEADERSHIP. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND,--AND WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL SOON BE VISITING AFRICA -- WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GO INTO GENEVA MEETING WITH A HALF-HEARTED, VAGUE OR CONDITIONAL STATEMENT OF WHAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO DO TO HELP THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND GET OFF THE GROUND. MANY AFRICANS, AS WELL AS OTHER FUND MEMBERS, WILL BE LOOKING FOR A CLEAR SIGNAL FROM THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE GENEVA MEETING. OUR OWN CREDIT RATING IN AFRICA WILL BE DETERMINED IN GENEVA AS MUCH AS THAT OF THE AFDF.

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5. FOR THESE REASONS I HOPE THAT YOU CAN MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SECURE APPROVAL OF A GENEROUS U.S. CONTRIBUTION WHICH CAN BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK.
STEARNS

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